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**Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox Joins National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) in Expressing Disappointment over President's Failure to Nominate a Latino to the U.S. Supreme Court**

Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Chairwoman of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Education Fund, joins NALEO in releasing the following statement in response to President George W. Bush's nomination of Judge John G. Roberts Jr. to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor following her resignation from the United States Supreme Court:

"The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials expresses disappointment that President George W. Bush did not seize the opportunity to nominate a Latino from the vast pool of qualified candidates to serve on the United States Supreme Court."

The NALEO Board of Directors is committed to conducting a thorough review of Judge Roberts' record and qualifications to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. NALEO's process for reviewing judicial nominees includes the following:

- An evaluation of the nominee's professional competence and judicial temperament, using such criteria as the American Bar Association rating, assessments of state and local bar associations, and the perspectives of Latino legal advocacy groups; and
- An evaluation of the nominee's commitment to protecting the rights and access to equal justice for all, including the Latino community. This evaluation will primarily focus on the nominee's rulings or positions on issues of political access for Latinos including voting rights, electoral access, immigrant's rights, equitable Census policies, and affirmative action.

"Though we are disappointed, we believe that President Bush may have an additional opportunity to nominate a Latino, as another vacancy may be likely before the end of his term. In the event of another vacancy, the NALEO Board of Directors stands ready to work with President Bush to help him identify a qualified Latino committed to equal justice and protecting the civil rights of all Americans."